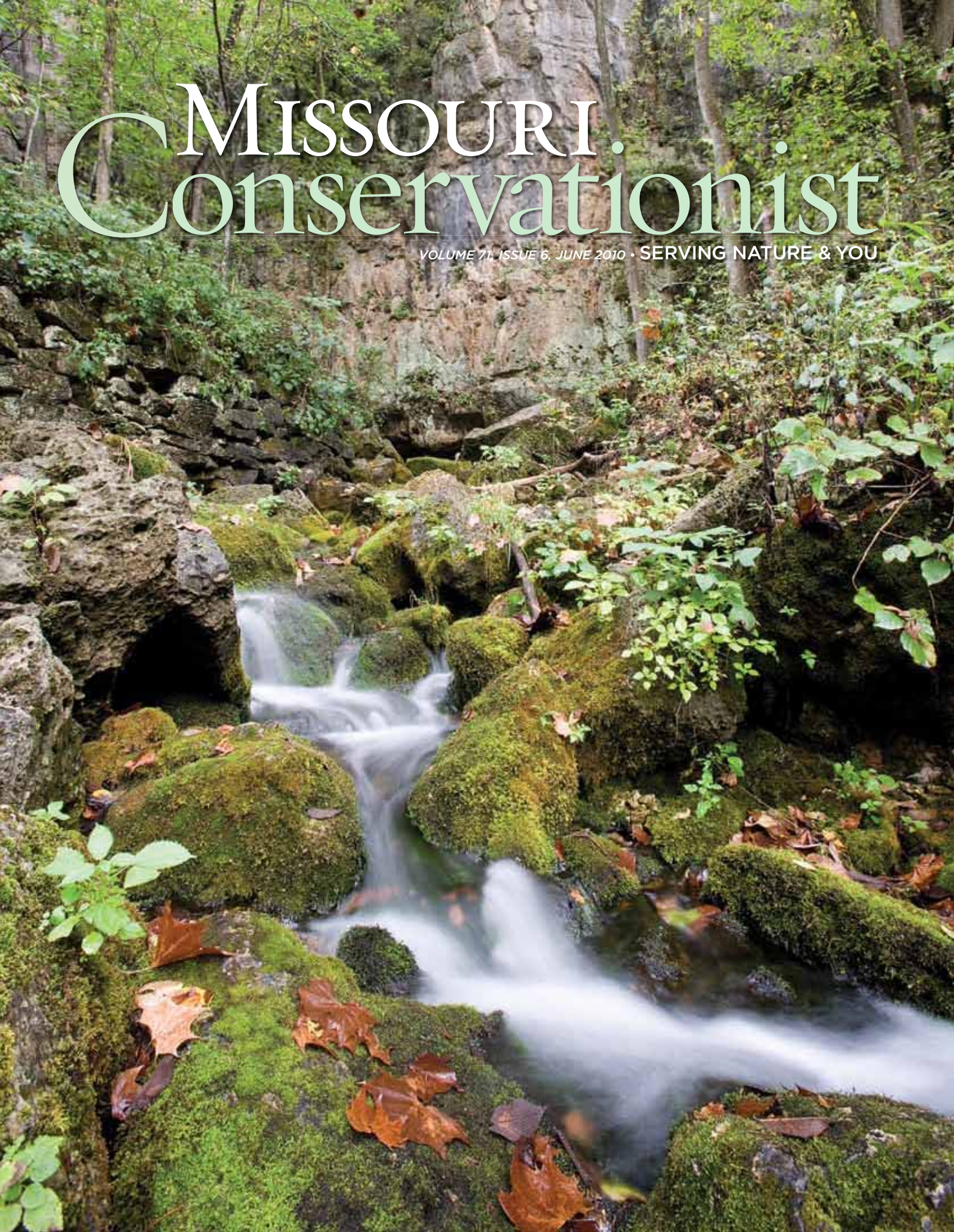


MISSOURI. Conservationist

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Missourians Are Committed to Conservation

Whether feeding birds or watching wildlife, hunting, canoeing and boating, target shooting, fishing or spending time at a nature center, Missourians are dedicated to the outdoors. Opportunities to participate in these and other activities within Missouri should not be taken for granted. The vision, passion and commitment of Missouri's citizens for forest, fish and wildlife resources have shaped the conservation services and experiences enjoyed today. The following points provide insight into Missouri's nationally recognized conservation program.

Missouri's citizens have taken unique and proactive steps to support and enhance conservation efforts. A citizen-led initiative petition, resulting in passage of a constitutional amendment, created the Con-

servation Commission in 1936. This action created the constitutional mandate that guides Department efforts to a) protect and manage the forest, fish and wildlife resources, b) serve the public and facilitate participation in resource management activities, and c) provide opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy and learn about forest, fish and wildlife resources. In 1976, a successful citizen-led effort to provide dedicated funding, through a 1/8 of 1 cent sales tax, greatly enhanced strategic and long-term management of forest, fish and all wildlife species.

Citizens have created a Conservation Department that "pays its way." The Department continues to—and must—live within its financial means. The Department operates on a budget that is less than 0.7 percent of Missouri's total state budget. This fiscal year, the 1/8 of 1 cent Conservation Sales Tax will generate approximately \$92 million—funds that are earmarked and spent to make fish and wildlife abundant and forests sustainable. No dollars are received from the state government general revenue fund.

Missourians value wildlife recreation, hunting and fishing experiences. There is an \$11.4 billion annual impact from Missouri's fish and wildlife-related recreation and our forestry industries. As a result, forest, fish and wildlife expenditures generate more than \$439 million in state and local taxes (much more

than the 1/8 of 1 cent sales tax generates). In addition, forest, fish and wildlife resources support more than 95,000 Missouri jobs.

The Conservation Department is not immune to economic downturns. When revenues are down for the state, they are down for the Department. The Department has taken strategic and prudent steps to address revenue shortfalls during the past year. Examples include a reduction in salaried positions, modification of some services and select office closures.

Citizens have created a Conservation Department that is the envy of the nation. That is because Missouri's system serves every county and maintains the necessary infrastructure to support services. The Department serves both rural and urban citizens through a variety of educa-

tional programs, including hunter education, landowner technical assistance, intense training for rural volunteer firefighters and much more. Citizen support of programs and services, provided by a dedicated and high-quality conservation staff, ensures fish and wildlife are abundant, forests sustainable and our waters healthy.

Missouri's quality of life—not to mention economy—is built on our diverse, high-quality and abundant natural resources like productive water, healthy forests, abundant fish and wildlife and rich soils. A recent survey revealed that more than 70 percent of Missourians feel the Department of Conservation is doing an excellent or good job of providing services to the state.

Missouri's citizen-created Conservation Department is something to feel good about and something to value. Thank you for your commitment. The future of our state's conservation success story is dependent on continued citizen support—the cornerstone of Missouri's conservation experience.



From left: Commissioner Don R. Johnson, Director Robert L. Ziehmer, Commissioner William F. "Chip" McGeehan, Commissioner Becky L. Plattner and Commissioner Don C. Bedell

Robert L. Ziehmer, director



Cover: Turner Mill by David Stonner

Left: Huzzah Trail by David Stonner

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To read more about this plan, visit

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TURKEY TALES

I just read the April *Conservationist*.

In my childhood, reading was not my strong suit, and my confidence was nonexistent. All that started to change when I was introduced to the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The first time I met someone from the MDC was on a grade school special school district fishing trip. I caught the biggest fish that day. Later in my life, I went on my first bow hunt and shot my first deer, which took place on MDC land. Soon after, a family friend took me on my first turkey hunt (also on MDC land) that changed my life. And then, a few years later, I shot my first longbeard on a managed hunt at Busch Wildlife. The odds were against me to harvest a

longbeard, but I changed my thinking and never gave up. With that thought process, I became a very successful turkey hunter and greater success in my life followed.

Since then, I have given back to several youth hunters and first-time turkey hunters. But, after 14-plus years of hunting turkey on Conservation land, I still feel as if I owe a greater thanks. After reading *50 Years of Missouri Turkey*, I knew who I wanted to thank: I want to thank everyone who got up every early morning over the past 50 years to ensure one of the greatest conservation stories in Missouri and the U.S. I'm glad there were enough people out there that could see that turkey needed a hand because when you conserve wildlife, you conserve people. I'm proof.

Scott Diebold, via Internet

Mr. Dailey's article stated that Missouri's spring turkey hunting season opened in 1960 with a

three-day hunt. My dad, Delbert Watts, was part of the first season and harvested a turkey. He has hunted turkey for the past 50 years and has never missed a season.

Dad's 76 years young now and not quite as quick as he used to be, but he is full of good stories for anyone that will sit and listen.

Tim Watts, Butler

Many people know how delicious fried wild turkey breast is. However, many outdoorsmen don't know how delicious the remainder of the turkey can be. Our family cuts off turkey breast to fry, then we cut up the rest of the turkey like you would a whole chicken. I slow-cook or pressure-cook it; thighs, legs, wings, back, neck and breast bone. When the meat is tender, I shred it. Add five bullion cubes into the hot broth, put the meat in the broth, and then freeze 2/3 of this for later. To the remaining 1/3, add: 1 large, family-sized can of cream of mushroom soup, 1 tsp. pepper, and 1 tsp. garlic powder. Simmer five minutes and serve over egg noodles or rice.

Gaye Valle, De Soto

MISSOURI CLOSE-UPS

I just wanted to say thank you to Noppadol Paothong and David Stonner. I am a local Joplin photographer and think we have a beautiful state. I have been inspired many times by the quality of photos I find in the *Missouri Conservationist*. They are not just good photos showing an accurate description of Missouri landscapes and wildlife, but they are very artistic as well. Thank you so much for what you do.

Aaron Wilcox, Joplin

The March issue of the *Conservationist* is really incredible. You certainly have two very fine photographers. David Stonner really impressed with his trout photos accompanying the article *Gone Fishing* [Page 16]. I appreciated his lens and camera settings being included. He and Noppadol Paothong always impress, but Mr. Stonner's photos this month really displayed incredible skill.

The article *Gainful Gobbling* [Page 24] was a hoot and, once again, so were the photos.

Mike Geske, Matthews



Reader Photo

OUTFOXED

Kim Peters of Nixa photographed this red fox in her backyard. "I frequently see opossum in the woodpile, but was delighted to see two foxes the morning I took this picture," says Peters. "In the last few years I have really taken an interest in photography. I don't have a long enough zoom lens to get the wildlife shots I would like, but I do the best I can. I knew my lens wasn't good enough to get a good shot of the fox from a distance, so it took me about 10 minutes to inch my way close enough. I was, at one point, crawling on my stomach like a soldier!"



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The Conservation Department is working with Missourians to contain and learn more about the White-Nose Syndrome that is affecting bats such as this little brown bat that shows the beginnings of a fungal infection on its wings.

MDC Monitoring New Bat Disease

The Missouri Department of Conservation recently confirmed Missouri's first signs of a new disease in bats that scientists have named "White-Nose Syndrome."

WNS first came to biologists' attention in New York State in 2006. Its name describes the white fungus, *Geomyces destructans*, typically found on the faces and wings of infected bats. Laboratory tests recently confirmed the WNS fungus on a bat found in a privately owned cave in Pike County.

Bats with WNS awaken more often during hibernation, so they consume energy reserves

and freeze or starve to death. More than a million bats in 11 states and Canada have died of the disease since 2006. It appears to spread mainly through bat-to-bat contact and has not been found to infect humans or other animals.

Bats play a vital role in Missouri's ecosystems, consuming thousands of tons of moths, beetles and other insects annually and sustaining cave life by bringing nutrients from outside. The Conservation Department has long restricted access to select caves to protect bats and fragile cave ecosystems. MDC caves are closed unless a sign is posted

that it is open or a special permit is obtained.

Please do not handle bats. Contact a Conservation Department office if you find dead bats with white, fuzzy fungal growth. For more information, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/8442.

Missouri Issues Walnut Quarantine

A ban on transporting walnut products from nine Western states into or through Missouri underscores the growing danger to Missouri forests from exotic pests.

The quarantine, issued by the Department of Agriculture's Plant Industries Division, became effective April 12 to protect the state's black walnut trees from the spread of thousand cankers disease. The affected states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington, plus northern Mexico.

Missouri is the first state to ban walnut products from areas where a beetle and newly described fungus blamed for the thousand cankers disease has been found. The walnut twig beetle carries a fungus that can form thousands of cankers under the bark of host trees. Early symptoms include leaf yellowing and wilting in the upper canopy of trees.

A recent Conservation Department study found that the annual economic impact from thousand cankers could exceed \$135 million in Missouri, including \$36 million in wood products, \$35 million in nut production and the loss of \$65 million in landscaping and street trees.

The beetle and fungus join a growing number



A ban on transporting walnut products from nine western states into or through Missouri helps protects our walnut trees from a beetle that causes wood to become infected with fungus such as this tree branch.

of exotic scourges threatening Missouri forests. Missouri already has one small infestation of the emerald ash borer, which invariably kills ash trees. The Show-Me State conducts annual monitoring to detect potential outbreaks of the gypsy moth, which has killed millions of oaks and other trees in the eastern half of the United States by repeated defoliation.

Campers can spread non-native invasive pests

by transporting firewood. Commercial shipment of wood products is another avenue of entry for exotic pests. Missouri's external quarantine includes any firewood cut from hardwood trees and walnut nursery stock, green lumber or any other walnut material living, dead, cut or fallen. Products exempt from the ban include nuts, nutmeats, hulls and bark-free, kiln-dried lumber with squared sides. Finished products, such as furniture, instru-

ments and gunstocks, are also allowed.

For more information on thousand cankers disease, visit mda.mo.gov/plants/pests/thousandcankers.php. If you notice a suspicious decline in black walnut trees or otherwise suspect an infestation of thousand cankers, contact the State Entomologist at 573-751-5505.

(continued on Page 6)



ASK THE OMBUDSMAN

Q: I've had several hummingbirds at my feeders this spring but they seem to have disappeared now. Where do they go?

A: It is normal to have fewer hummingbirds at nectar feeders during late spring and early summer. Many hummingbirds continue to migrate to areas north of Missouri for nesting. Birds that do nest here tend to visit feeders less frequently during nesting. They stay closer to their nests, and their diets shift to more protein. The birds often find insects and spiders in flower blossoms but also will take some insects from the air while in flight. Hummingbirds are likely to be most abundant at nectar feeders from August to mid-September as migrating birds pass back through Missouri on their way to overwintering sites in Central America. During that time, their numbers have swelled to include the new young birds hatched during the summer.



Ruby-throated hummingbird

Q: I live in Perry County and I was wondering why I am seeing more and more armadillos the last few years. Are they being imported or are they just moving north?

A: Armadillos are naturally expanding their range northward and eastward into Missouri. We are not aware of any intentional importation of the animals into the state. Armadillos first appeared in southwest Missouri in the mid-1970s. They have since expanded into most, if not all, counties south of the Missouri River, and they are now being reported more frequently north of the river as well. Harsh winters may temporarily reduce our armadillo population, but enough individuals are likely to survive to maintain them as Missouri residents for the foreseeable future. Here's a link to more information: www.MissouriConservation.org/16308.



Armadillo

Ombudsman Tim Smith will respond to your questions, suggestions or complaints concerning Department of Conservation programs. Write him at PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, call him at 573-522-4115, ext. 3848, or e-mail him at Ombudsman@mdc.mo.gov.

Spring Turkey Harvest

Hunters made the most of the final week of Missouri's 21-day spring turkey season, shooting 8,263 birds. The last week's harvest boosted the regular-season tally to 42,254, an increase of 429 from last year.

Top harvest counties for the regular season April 19 through May 9 were Franklin with 872, Texas with 755 and St. Clair with 701.

Missouri's spring turkey season has two parts. Hunters age 6 through 15 shot 3,945 turkeys during the youth season April 10 and 11. This boosted the combined spring turkey harvest to 46,199, which is 1,491 more than last year.

Resource Scientist Tom Dailey had predicted

the total harvest would be approximately 44,000. He attributed the 5-percent larger harvest to two factors.

"We had the usual mixed bag of weather during the hunting season this year," says Dailey, the Missouri Department of Conservation's turkey expert. "The opening weekend was pretty rough, with lots of wind and rain, and the last Saturday was windy. Other than that, though, conditions were extremely favorable for hunting."

The second factor contributing to this year's better-than-expected turkey harvest was a slight increase in wild turkeys' nesting success in 2009. The Conservation Department measures nesting success by the number of poults—young tur-

keys—seen with turkey hens during the summer by volunteer observers.

"Compared to the long-term average, last year's poult-to-hen ratio wasn't what you would call great," says Dailey, "but it was slightly better than the two previous years. It allowed turkeys to hold their own in many areas and increase in some others."

Dailey says he was pleased that this year's spring harvest did not include a higher-than-normal percentage of young turkeys. "Jakes," as year-old male turkeys are called, made up 21 percent of this year's harvest, compared to the historic average of approximately 25 percent.

"Hunters could have shot more jakes this year because we had a few more of them than in recent years," says Dailey. "Apparently the opposite happened, so we will carry over quite a few jakes to next year. That means more 2-year-old birds next spring."

Dailey says 2-year-old toms are the ones that gobble most, and hunters measure the quality of a day's hunt largely by the presence or absence of gobbling birds. He says the moderate take of jakes is a good sign for the future.

Also a good sign is the return of more moderate spring weather. Cold and rain reduce wild turkey's nesting success, and the past few years have set records for both. Dailey says with more normal weather during the summer there is every reason to expect the state's turkey population to rebound from its current dip.

"I've got my fingers crossed," says Dailey, "and I'm sure lots of other turkey hunters do, too."

The spring turkey season pumps tens of millions of dollars into the state economy. In all, the economic impact of this spending is more than \$248 million annually and supports more than 2,300 jobs.

Upper Mississippi CA Blind Drawing Set For July 17

Hunters hoping to get a blind at Upper Mississippi Conservation Area need to be at the St. Charles Convention Center July 17 when the Missouri Department of Conservation holds the drawing for prime hunting spots on the 12,500-acre wetland area north of St. Louis. Registration will take place from 9 until 10:30 a.m., with the drawing at 11 a.m. The Conservation Department will provide aerial maps for winning hunters to choose their blind sites as they are drawn. Winners also select co-registrants who will occupy the blinds with them. Registrants must be 16 or older. Hunters age 16 to 64 are required to bring a 2010 Missouri Small Game Hunting Permit. All participants will need a 2010 Migratory Bird Permit, a signed 2010 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and a photo ID. Drawing winners must also provide names, addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth and conservation numbers for all co-registrants. Upper Mississippi CA consists of 87 tracts of federal land between Melvin Price Lock and Dam and LeGrange. For more information, call Columbia Bottom Conservation Area at 314-877-6014 or the St. Louis Regional Conservation Department Office at 636-441-4554.



Mallard ducks

Black Bullhead Record Falls

Missouri has a new state-record black bullhead, and Nicholas J. Wray has his second fishing record in less than two years. Wray, 23, caught the 2-pound, 4-ounce fish on a jug line April 9 at a farm pond in Cass County. The bullhead nudged aside the previous record by 4 ounces. In 2008, Wray caught Missouri's first state-record river carpsucker, a 2-pound, 3-ounce fish that came from Cass County's South Grand River near

Amarugia Highlands Conservation Area. He did it by design, having noticed that no one had bothered to apply for a record for the species previously. The alternative methods category is for fish taken with trotlines, throw lines, limb lines, bank lines, tree lines or jug lines or by spearfishing, snagging, gigging, archery or grabbing (with a hook). Pole-and-line records are those taken with hand-held lines. State-record entry forms and rules are available at www.MissouriConservation.org/72. A list of Missouri fishing records is available at www.MissouriConservation.org/69. The Conservation Department also has a Master Angler Program to recognize notable catches that fall short of records. For qualifying lengths and weights, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/71.

St. Louis WOW Event Has Openings

The St. Louis WOW event July 9 and 10 still has room for families with children 9 and older who want to discover the challenge and excitement of activities from canoeing to rock climbing. The event in Forest Park also includes outdoor cooking, camping, fishing, archery and a youth camp for kids age 4 through 8. The cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Financial assistance is available. Registration continues through June 18. Call 314-340-5794 for a registration packet.

Be Bear Prepared

Would you know what to do if you rounded a bend in a trail and came face to face with a bear? That still is unlikely in Missouri, but the state's growing bear population means it is not impossible.

The Conservation Department has confirmed bear sightings in 61 of the state's 114 counties. Ninety percent of the state's bears live south of Interstate Highway 44. Ozark County leads the state with 102 bear sightings since 1987. Adjoining Howell and Douglas counties are second and third with 60 and 51 sightings, respectively. Counties with 40 or more sightings include Carter, Christian, Iron, Reynolds, Shannon, Stone and Taney. The cluster of bear sightings in and around Reynolds County extends north as far as Crawford, Franklin and Washington counties, each of which has produced more than 30 verified reports since 1987.

Bears are naturally shy of humans, so most meetings with bears are brief. However, accidental bear encounters can be dangerous if the



Black bear

bear is startled or cornered or if a person gets between a sow and her cubs.

One way to avoid surprising a bear is to make noise. Talking with companions, whistling, singing or fastening a small bell to your backpack or clothing is a wise idea in bear country.

If you see a bear that has not seen you yet, leave the area quickly and quietly. If the bear is aware of your presence, avoid eye contact, which bears perceive as aggressive behavior. Look down and walk away while speaking in a normal voice.

Although attacks by black bears are rare, they do occur. Bears can run much faster than humans, and they are excellent climbers, so fleeing or climbing a tree is pointless. The most effective strategy is to fight back with whatever you have—a knife, a rock, a stick or any other

weapon. Black bear attacks have been repelled by people using nothing more than their fists. Striking a bear around the face is most effective. Pepper spray also can stop a bear attack.

Aggressive bears usually are those that have become accustomed to human presence. This most often occurs through intentional feeding. Never deliberately feed bears or allow them to raid trash, livestock feeders or other human food sources. This puts both people and bears at risk.

If you see a bear—especially an aggressive one—contact your conservation office or your local sheriff's department immediately. The Conservation Department has specially trained employees to deal with problem or aggressive bears. For more information about living with bears, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/7835.





THE CORE OF CONSERVATION

Whetstone Creek Conservation Area benefits from enthusiastic Americorps volunteers.

by CHRIS CANIPE, *photos by* CLIFF WHITE

THEY SPENT THE FIRST FEW WEEKS SETTING FIRES.

“Our house smelled like we were a bunch of chimney smokers,” Americorps team leader Angela Young says. “We had to keep our clothes outside. But that’s over now. Now we just have ticks.”

Young is one of 12 volunteers with the Americorps National Civilian Community Corps program that spent the spring at the Whetstone Creek Conservation Area near Williamsburg. The group worked under the supervision of the Missouri Department of Conservation to carry out projects geared towards prairie restoration.



Above: Americorps volunteers enjoyed assisting with Earth Day activities for school children.

Left: Removing invasive bush honeysuckles was one of the many projects Americorps volunteers spent time on this spring.

Young says they spent the first three or four weeks conducting controlled burns, then removed miles of fence and invasive plant species such as honeysuckle, garlic mustard, and autumn olive—a shrub that can grow up to 20 feet tall.

“I think it’s kind of pretty, but it’s invasive so we cut it down,” Young says.

The volunteers hail from all over the country, and all but one are between the ages of 22 and 24. Most of the young men and women recently graduated from college. They moved into a bunkhouse on the 5,147-acre conservation area in mid-March and were scheduled to leave in early May.

John George is a natural history biologist with the Department of Conservation in Columbia and has supervised Americorps NCCC groups for five of the last six years that they’ve worked for the Department. George says their contribution is invaluable.

“Their focused labor helps us get more done than what we could do,” he says. “MDC employees have several areas of responsibility. With the volunteers, a lot of effort can be focused on specific tasks.”

The volunteers earn a living allowance of approximately \$4,000 for the 10 months of service, and the host project usually provides room and board. George says that’s a bargain.

“It probably cost us \$3,000–\$5,000,” he says. “If I had to contract for the types of things they’re doing for us, I’d be looking at \$20,000–\$30,000 plus to do the kinds of work they’re doing.”

The property that is now Whetstone Creek Conservation Area was used as a cattle ranch before 1976, when the Department of Conservation bought it. Historically, the area was home to tallgrass prairie, savanna and woodlands. The absence of naturally occurring wildfires in recent years has made it a haven for invasive species that keep native vegetation from thriving, and much of the volunteers’ work has been aimed at restoring the property to its natural cover.

Referring to her notes, Young says her group had built more than eight miles of fire lines, planted roughly 100 trees, burned more than 1,400 acres, removed more than four miles of old fence, built a mile of trail and stained eight picnic tables and a foot bridge.

That’s a lot of work, but Young says it was worth it to spend the springtime in Missouri. “It’s absolutely perfect,” she says. “I guess springtime anywhere is nice but it’s really nice to be here in Missouri with all of the wildflowers and the prairie.”



Removing more than four miles of fence line was one of the many projects volunteers worked on to help wildlife habitat.

The youngest volunteer in the group is Amanda Chouinard from Londonderry, New Hampshire. She graduated from high school last year and says she wasn't ready to go to college right away. "I decided that I wanted to do a year of service in between high school and college, so I joined Americorps," she says.

Chouinard says she enjoyed working at Whetstone Creek because it meant working outdoors and because every day was something new. She says the controlled burns were her favorite.

The controlled burns are meant to eliminate unhealthy ground cover and allow the prairie grasses and wildflowers to regenerate in full sunlight. Chouinard says she was amazed by how quickly the vegetation returned.

"It's like super green," she says. "It was green maybe a week after we burned it. I wasn't expecting that at all. It's amazing to see how everything blossoms up now that light can actually get to the surface."

Another volunteer, 24-year-old Molly Sullivan, says she enjoyed the relative seclusion of the Whetstone Creek assignment. "Everything around us is really beautiful," she says. "There's no city lights out here. I've never lived in such a remote area."

Whetstone Creek is a popular location for small game hunting and fishing, and it is home to an abundance of wildlife including rabbits, turtles, wild turkey and deer. Volunteers encountered other wildlife as well.

"We've seen more snakes than we would like," Sullivan says.

For team leader Young, this is her second year through the program and the second time she has worked at Whetstone Creek. "I obviously had a great time last year," she says. "John George is an amazing sponsor, and he's been great to work with."

When Young talks about her time at Whetstone Creek, she sounds like she's describing summer camp. She says an after work fitness routine is a part of the Americorps program, and that meant running a few miles through the conservation area three times a week. Sometimes they played soccer or ultimate football.

"Last week we played capture the flag," she says. "We all ran through prairie grass so we all have cuts on our legs."

The volunteers spent most of their time outdoors, doing work that could be physically demanding. Young says she spent the day with an herbicide spray tank on her back. "They're super heavy," she says. "I think they're between 30 and 45 pounds when they're full. But you know, we're getting stronger."

Young is originally from Georgetown, Texas. In 2008, she graduated from William and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. She earned a degree in politics with a



Americorps volunteers built more than eight miles of fire lines and burned more than 1,400 acres.

concentration in poverty and human capability. She isn't sure what she'll do next.

"We finish July 22, and then I'm looking for work in the non-profit field in the Denver area because that's where we're stationed," she says.

The group was scheduled to end their Department of Conservation assignment on May 6, but Young says she didn't think the group was ready to go. "We've really enjoyed our time here. I think everyone would really like to stay," she says.

Chouinard says she had enjoyed her time at Whetstone Creek as well. "It's just been a great experience," she says. "I've loved being outside and being with good people." ▲



Whetstone Creek CA features: boat ramp, primitive camping, picnic areas, 16 fishable lakes and ponds (65 acres), unstaffed shooting range and Whetstone Creek Natural Area (127 acres). Whetstone Creek is a designated Quail Emphasis Area which is focused on managing habitat for early successional species such as Northern Bobwhite Quail. Located in Callaway County, from I-70 Williamsburg exit 161, take Route D north to the stop sign. Turn west and continue on Route D to County Road 1003. Go north 2 miles on County Road 1003 to the entrance. Whetstone Creek CA is open from a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset, unless posted otherwise.

For the LOVE of PINE

Winona's Twin Pines
Conservation Education Center
thrives in its first two years.

by CANDICE DAVIS
photos by DAVID STONNER

ASK SOMEONE FROM THE OZARKS about their home, and you may be in for a long conversation as they describe the height and gentle swaying rhythm of pine trees that could almost lull them to sleep.

In the middle of those pines, halfway between Sikeston and Springfield on Highway 60, is a 452-acre outdoor classroom known as the Twin Pines Conservation Education Center. Missouri's only rural nature center, Twin Pines CEC has hosted more than 26,000 visitors since its opening on January 1, 2008.

Representative of the center's growing popularity is its recent recognition from *Rural Missouri* magazine. The ninth annual *Best of Rural Missouri* 2010 edition listed Twin Pines CEC as Southeast Missouri's "Best Outdoor Adventure" and praised the education center for





Twin Pines Conservation
Education Center in Winona

placing special emphasis on the history of the Ozarks' timber industry.

Featuring opportunities for hiking, birding, nature photography and other nature-related activities, Twin Pines also has a trail through the area providing access to pine-oak woodland

This Ford Model TT hauled loads of timber in the rugged Ozark hills. It was restored by Russ Noah, of Eminence.

Below: Field trips usually are all-day affairs at Twin Pines CEC.



and several other forest types. The history of the Ozarks' timber industry is a continuing theme throughout the exhibits because of the center's location in the midst of some of Missouri's most productive forests. Center Manager Melanie Carden-Jessen says the facility design is focused on portraying the Ozarks as it might have been seen by Henry Rowe Schoolcraft when he first documented the landscape in 1818 and 1819.

"We understand that we'll never see the 7-foot-diameter pine that was here then, but we can help people manage their forests today so they're healthy and support a diversity of wildlife," she says. This is accomplished in part by providing demonstration areas of the various management techniques and with exhibits of glade, stream and cave habitats because they're typical throughout the Ozark region.

It's this combination of the region's varying landscape and the community needs met by the center that makes Carden-Jessen believe



Twin Pines CEC is in the perfect location.

"It may look like we're in the middle of nowhere," she says, "but in fact we're able to fill in a gap for communities and so many rural schools in the area."

"Schools often bring busses of students on a two-hour drive to attend programs like History Comes Alive and Heritage Days," she says.

This is why, when students take a field trip to Twin Pines, it's usually a whole-day affair, according to Carden-Jessen. "They get to fish, shoot bows, hike and take part in fun activities that correlate with Grade Level Expectations," she says.

But the goal of hosting field trips at Twin Pines is multifaceted, and the center isn't just for school trips. "We want school children, adults and families to all have a good time, learn how special the Ozarks are, how lucky we are to be living here and how important it is to take care of our fish, forests and wildlife throughout the region," Carden-Jessen says.

Regular activities for the Ozark community are another benefit offered at Twin Pines. Five large annual events and many regular activities and clubs contribute to a packed activities calendar for the center's staff and patrons.

Sarah Thomas from Eminence says she's visited Twin Pines CEC three times and recently attended the Raptor Rockets event with her two children and another family. They and other participants first learned about Missouri's native and migratory raptors and then used 2-liter soda bottles, feathers and other materials to construct replicas of the birds. Creators of the most recognizable raptors were awarded medals, and afterward the group used pumps to propel their birds to great heights and see whose raptor flew the highest. A few even soared up near the tops of the pine trees.

Thomas says she keeps bringing her children back to the center because "of how far the staff is willing to go to provide materials and welcome patrons." She added that another great thing about Twin Pines is that "it's free." There is no admission charge because Twin Pines CEC is operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation and is supported by fishing and hunting license revenues and the statewide 1/8-of-1 percent "Design for Conservation" sales tax.



Another Twin Pines event Thomas has attended is the annual two-day History Comes Alive program where staff and volunteers take on the personas of people who lived in Shannon and surrounding counties in the 1930s. According to Carden-Jessen, the characters are taken directly from Lennis Broadfoot's book, *Pioneers of the Ozarks*.

"We address how residents of the Ozarks were dependent on the forest, fish and wildlife

of Missouri in order to survive," Carden-Jessen says. This year's characters

included tie-hacker Luther Boxx, fish spiker John Counts and soap-maker and midwife Marg Swiney.

Carden-Jessen says it's very likely that descendants of these real historic characters, like Boxx, Counts and Swiney, might now attend regular activities and clubs at Twin Pines CEC such as Little Stinker's Storytime, Nature Nuts or Wild Things.

For Little Stinker's Storytime, Conservation Department Naturalist Reta Barkley chooses a different story each month, including songs and activities for preschoolers to second graders.

A student visitor identifies a tree by the structure of its branches at the education center.

It may look like we are in the middle of nowhere, but we are able to fill in a gap for communities and so many rural schools in the area.

TWIN PINES CEC MANAGER
MELANIE CARDEN-JESSEN

The traditional log cabin is the most popular feature on the grounds because it shows how connected the people were to the land and natural resources back when the region was newly settled.

Nature Nuts is a youth volunteer corps that features a program on the second Saturday of each month for ages 7 to 12. Wild Things is the name of the women's group that meets on Sunday afternoons to learn and make nature-related crafts.

Youth fishing clinics are held at the center's 2-acre Mule Camp Pond, where fishing for largemouth bass, hybrid sunfish and channel catfish is allowed by special permit only. For 2010, Discover Nature—Families Fishing Day will be held in August. Carden-Jessen says the day's activities will include a fishing derby, lots of awards, fish print T-shirts and a kiddie casting pond.

A fun detail in the midst of many of these activities is the bell on the old Vann Schoolhouse. There's no question of when to rotate activities; the ringing of the old school-bell carries through the grounds.

The Vann Schoolhouse is a newly restored

historic schoolhouse used for conservation education programs and to host local public meetings. The school was built in 1910 when the big timber boom was in full swing in the Shannon County area, which is why the building is large in comparison to the typical one-room school house of the time, according to Carden-Jessen. She says the increase in population was caused directly by the booming timber industry.

The building was originally constructed as a state-supported community school in 1910. It was donated to Twin Pines CEC by the Winona School District in 2008. Community Foundation of the Ozarks and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation paid for restoration of the Vann Schoolhouse.

It could be the schoolhouse, the variety of vintage equipment, the *Stamp of Character* video in the theater or perhaps the artifacts on display gathered by local Eminence resident Russ Noah and others, but something about



Twin Pines sparks memories for many visitors.

For those who attended class in the Vann Schoolhouse, it's common to hear them reminisce. Others share personal stories about logging or sawmill jobs that provided food for their families through hard times. "Spent many a day buckin' a two-man saw just like that one," they'll say, or "there was a time when I spent the whole day swinging an axe just like that one and only made 80 cents for the whole day."

According to Carden-Jessen, the old mill equipment is a popular exhibit, and the on-site captive timber rattlesnake is a favorite for many visitors. Another exhibit, the restored 1946 Chevrolet panel truck outfitted with a generator and movie projector, celebrates the Conservation Department's early efforts to spread conservation messages to Ozark communities without electricity. But the traditional log cabin is likely the most popular feature on the grounds, Carden-Jessen says, because it shows how people in the Ozarks lived when the region was newly settled and how connected people were to the land and natural resources.

"I guess the point is that, maybe more here than in some places, the resources and the people can't be separated," she says, adding she's spent hours looking at pictures and talking with people about their lives in the Ozarks.

Her favorite story from Twin Pines CEC relates to the initials carved on a desk in the Van Schoolhouse. "A grandchild recognized the initials carved into the desk, but the ones with it were not grandma's," Carden-Jessen says. "I told them grandpa made the right choice and not to worry about it."

The Grandin display in the center's large exhibit hall brings patrons back to the logging boom and how it affected the region. Some visitors remember their grandparents telling stories about Grandin or share stories of how they were born in one of the worker houses there.

"Where the hardwoods once hugged the river valleys, we now have our few hay fields, and where once stood the park-like lofty pine, forests are often crowded oak-hickory with a thick understory and ground cover," Carden-Jessen says.

But at Twin Pines, the center is nestled in lofty pines that sway with the wind, reminiscent of how Schoolcraft might have seen the



Ozarks—abounding with native plant and wildlife species. This is most likely why staff and patrons have sighted 63 bird species from the center's oversized deck and surrounding bird viewing area.

"It's like watching a maestro lead the feathered orchestra in the forest symphony," Carden-Jessen says. "A few minutes on the porch can't help but fill your heart with the same song that fills the air." ▲

Twin Pines has a trail through the area that provides access to pine-oak woodland and several other forest types.



Located on Highway 60, 1.3 miles east of the junction with Highway 19 North in Winona, Twin Pines CEC is open Wednesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5

p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The center is closed Monday and Tuesday. There is no admission charge.

Kayak Angling

These lightweight boats skim the surface while you plumb the depths for fish.

by BRETT BOSCHERT, photos by DAVID STONNER

Have you ever been waiting in line at the boat ramp and spotted someone pulling their kayak down to the bank and shoving off? It is happening more and more these days as anglers are leaving their powerboats back at the house and fishing out of kayaks instead.

Kayak fishing is gaining momentum for many reasons. One is the kayak's ability to get to many places that powerboats cannot. They only need a few inches of water, and you don't need a ramp. At the worst, you might have to pull it through some shoreline weeds or climb over a few rocks before you can paddle out and start fishing.

Kayaks work especially well on small ponds. Shoreline vegetation often makes it difficult to fish ponds well from shore. Launch your kayak, however, and you've got open and stealthy access to the entire shoreline.

Another big advantage is that the only fuel you burn when out fishing is calories.

Kayak manufacturers are catering to the specific needs of anglers. The two main styles of kayaks are sit-insides and sit-on-tops. A sit-inside (or SINK) is a kayak that has the traditional kayak look but typically offers a larger, more open cockpit. They generally have hatches that seal, providing both dry areas for your gear and extra flotation.

The sit-on-top (or SOT) style is popular for fishing. SOTs offer freedom of movement and usually have a rear tank well to store your fishing gear. Anglers often place a milk crate in the rear well to store their tackle. They then attach PVC pipe to the crate to make rod holders.





Shaun Schmitz fishes for smallmouth bass on a mid-Missouri stream.

Another great feature of a SOT is that it gives you the ability to fish sideways with both feet over one side and hanging in the water. This can help cool you in the middle of the summer. And when you make your backcast, you aren't likely to hook the gear that's behind you.

Manufacturers have developed means of steering and propulsion to prevent kayakers from having to constantly wield a paddle. Rudders help control the direction of the kayak,

and bicycle-style drive systems that spin a propeller or fins or specially developed trolling motors keep the kayak moving.

Outfitting a Kayak

It's fun to outfit your craft to fit your needs. Anglers have equipped their kayaks with such items as fish finders, rod holders and, of course, various safety items. Before experimenting with outfitting a kayak, take the boat out fishing a few times and figure out

where the accessories would be most conveniently located.

You can mount a transducer for a fish finder on a kayak, but a more common option is to secure the transducer inside the bottom of the kayak so that it shoots its beam through the hull. This eliminates the potential to knock the transducer askew while going through shallow waters or getting it hooked on debris.

It's best to have all of your rods stored behind you except for the rod

A sit-on-top style kayak offers freedom of movement and allows you to fish over the side.



that you are using. Many “angler edition” kayaks come with two flush mounts behind the seat (one on each side) and one in front of the angler. In fact, it’s a good general rule when outfitting your kayak to keep the area in front of you clear so that nothing interferes with your casting or paddling.

You might consider an anchor. Just remember an anchor caught up in fast moving water could cause your kayak to sink like a submarine. As

Kayak fishing is a rewarding way of catching fish. It gives anglers a unique perspective, and you even get a good workout from paddling.

a safeguard, equip your anchor with a quick release from your kayak. Attach some sort of float to the end of the rope so that you can come back and retrieve it.

Anchor trollies are popular. They let you position the pull of the anchor anywhere from the bow to the stern and help you to point your kayak in the direction you want. This is a great aid for fishing.

You definitely should have a personal life jacket. Many kayak anglers prefer a life jacket that has its flotation material concentrated high in the back. This improves comfort as the stuffing is located above the seat back of the kayak.

You might also include a first aid kit, or at least enough first aid items for small cuts and minor injuries that you could encounter while out on the water.

Getting Started

Before purchasing a kayak you should consider how you are going to transport it. Will you be putting it on the roof of your vehicle or using a trailer? It’s much easier to load and unload a kayak from a trailer than lifting it off and on the roof of your vehicle. However you transport the kayak, make sure you’ve secured it with straps—front and back and across the hull.

Paddles range in price from \$50 for fully functional models all the way up to \$400 for carbon fiber paddles. Some paddles include a

built-in hook remover in case you get snagged on a log.

Thanks to the Web, kayak anglers can share research and ideas on the sport with people around the world. A good place to start is www.kayak-bassfishing.com. The site’s regular contributors include people on the pro staff for some of the kayak manufacturers. They know a lot about kayaking and fishing. Members of the site gave me their advice and opinions when I was looking to get a new kayak and were very helpful in the decision process.

Missouri has its own Web site dedicated to bringing anglers together. Go to MissouriKayakAnglers.com.

Kayak anglers have even started their own tournaments. In these tournaments, though, you don’t bring the fish back for weigh-in. Instead, you are given a unique identifier, a ruler and a camera. After the allotted time for fishing has been completed, the competing anglers return to the launch site and turn in their photos for review by the judges. This method is known as Catch-Photo-Release.

Kayak fishing is a fun and rewarding way of catching fish. It allows anglers a unique, close-to-the-water perspective and enables them to reach shallower areas than powerboats. You even get a good workout from paddling. And while others are waiting in line at the launch ramp, you might already have paddled around the bend and have caught your first fish of the day. ▲



The Ozark Trail

All paths lead to wonder. *by* DAVID STONNER





IT STRETCHES FROM AIRY MOUNTAINTOPS covered in swaying pines to impossibly green valleys overflowing with ferns and watered by cool spring creeks. Cerulean and Swainson's warblers whistle through the riparian corridors and bottomland canebrakes.

Dry, hot glades, like those found on Peck Ranch Conservation Area, are home to collared lizards and coneflowers, while the soggy bottomland fens of Grasshopper Hollow Natural Area and Barton Fen Natural Area host rare plants and the endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly.

The hike through Ketcherside Mountain CA to Mina Sauk Falls, the tallest waterfall in the state, is stunning. The trail leading from Johnson's Shut-Ins to Bell Mountain is some of the most rugged hiking this state has to offer. Abandoned mining towns like Midco on Peck Ranch and the Scotia Iron Furnace on Huzzah CA offer an interesting historical perspective on the region.

Relax on a hot summer day by the cold trail-side streams on Rocky Creek CA. Smell the shortleaf pines wafting over igneous shut-ins at Mill Mountain NA. Watch the stars wheel overhead while a gentle breeze rustles hardwood forests and carries with it the yelps of coyotes on distant ridgelines. The Missouri Ozarks are enchanting, and the Ozark Trail could be one of the best ways to experience it.

While the trail itself leads to many wonderful things to see, there are many smaller side trips that can lead to scenic places, such as Greer Spring, Rocky Falls and Council Bluff Lake. Nearly 40 miles of the Ozark Trail run through conservation areas alone, and the trail touches on many fascinating natural areas, including Blue Spring, Royal Gorge and Powder Mill Cave.

The things to see and hear and experience on the Ozark Trail could fill several books. I present just a few of my favorite places to visit along the main north-south trunk of the trail. Some disconnected sections of the trail are not shown on the map on Page 24. For more information, up-to-date trail construction and detailed topographical maps of the trail, please visit www.ozarktrail.com. For detailed information, area maps and area brochures of Department of Conservation lands along the trail, visit www.MissouriConservation.org/2930. ▲

◀ Mina Sauk Falls—Taum Sauk Section

The tallest wet-weather waterfall in Missouri, Mina Sauk Falls is one of the highlights of the Taum Sauk Section. The water cascades 132 feet over igneous rock ledges and offers a scenic view of the St. Francois Mountains from the top. At the bottom of the falls, the lush vegetation provides shaded relief from the igneous glades that dot the trail. The Falls is a moderately rugged 1.5 miles from the trail head at Taum Sauk State Park, or start at the Highway 21 trail head near Royal Gorge NA and hike six miles through the scenic Ketcherside Mountain CA. The Falls slow to a trickle during dry weather, so the best time to visit is the day after a good rain.

📷 16-35mm f/2.8 lens • f/8 • 1/60 sec • ISO 320

The Ozark Trail

Nearly 40 miles of the Ozark Trail run through conservation areas alone, and the trail touches on many fascinating natural areas, including Blue Spring, Royal Gorge and Powder Mill Cave.

Council Bluff Lake Sunrise—Trace Creek Section ►

A 13-mile trail circles this clear lake stocked with largemouth bass, catfish, bluegill, crappie and redear sunfish. A spur trail connects it to the Trace Creek Section near the Middle Fork junction. The easy loop hugs the lake edge as it meanders through hardwood forest. The Trace Creek Section of the trail passes through mature hardwood forest and connects in the north to the Courtois Section and the Huzzah CA.

70-200mm f/2.8 lens • f/5.6

1/25 sec • ISO 200





▼ Turner's Mill—Eleven Point Section

A 26-foot steel overshoot water wheel nearly 100 years old still sits in a creek at the site of the abandoned town of Surprise. This area near the east trail head of the Eleven Point Section of the trail is laced with small caves and spring creeks pouring into the Eleven Point River and has a history in the logging and lumber industry. West of Highway 19, McCormack Lake features scenic views and good fishing. Stunning bluff-top views of the Eleven Point River make this section a favorite.

📷 16-35mm f/2.8 lens • f/18 • 0.6 sec • ISO 100



Stars at Stegall Mountain Natural Area—Current River Section ►

The rocky glades at Stegall Mountain NA, located within Peck Ranch CA, are some of my favorite places to photograph. Beautiful views of the sky and surrounding hills are plentiful on this part of the Current River Section of the Ozark Trail. Collared lizards skitter about the igneous rock glades and shortleaf pine trees are abundant. The trail leads through the middle of Klepzig Mill Shut-ins and runs past the Mill Mountain NA. A side trail leads to Rocky Falls, a beautiful rhyolite formation and waterfall with a refreshing swimming hole at the base, near Rocky Creek CA. Farther south on the trail through Peck Ranch is Midco Hollow, where there is an old sawmill, a mine and an abandoned town dating from the 1800s. Mule Hollow NA, also on Peck Ranch, hosts dolomite glades and chinkapin oaks.

📷 16-35mm f/2.8 lens • f/5.6 • 35 5-minute exposures layered together • ISO 400





◀ Yellow Garden Spider Barton Fen—Middle Fork Section

This female yellow garden spider lays in waiting across the Ozark Trail at Barton Fen. The fen is a delicate wetland ecosystem that is home to the endangered Hines emerald dragonfly. Wildflowers are abundant in this moist area and crayfish burrows can be seen in the spongy ground and among the water seeps. Farther south, the trail turns into the Karkaghne Section and features another fen complex at Grasshopper Hollow NA and Sutton Bluff.

📷 100mm f/2.8 macro lens • f/1 • 1/4 sec • ISO 400



▲ Blue Spring Natural Area—Current River Section

A short walk from the National Park Service's Owl's Bend Campground, this sapphire spring is the deepest in the state. This natural area hosts blue mist flower, cardinal flower, resurrection ferns and mistletoe, as well as many other valuable native plants and animals. The spring hole is more than 300 feet deep and wells up into a calm pool that cascades gently to join the Current River a short distance away. To the north is the Blair Creek Section, which features Powder Mill Cave NA. The bluff views of the Current River looking upstream are easily accessible from the Owl's Bend trail head. The Blair Creek Section also passes through Pioneer Forest and features many varieties of woodland wildflowers.

📷 24-70mm f/2.8 lens • f/22 • 10 sec • ISO 100



Greer Spring—Eleven Point Section ►

Greer Spring is 1.5 miles south of the Ozark Trail on Highway 19. The spring is the second largest in the state and is a major source of water for the Eleven Point River. This wonderfully scenic area is a small paradise on a hot day. Fog rises to fill the valley as the cool water tumbles over moss-covered rocks, and mist settles on ferns along the way to the river. The Eleven Point is designated a National Wild and Scenic River due to the undeveloped shoreline and watershed, free of impoundments. River birch and huge sycamores line the banks, and abundant bass, walleye and trout ply the cool deep pools and gentle riffles of the Eleven Point. This is regarded by many to be the most scenic spring in the state.

📷 16-35mm f/2.8 lens • f/16 • 2.5 sec • ISO 200





▲ Bell Mountain Sunrise—Taum Sauk Section

This natural area has some of the best views in the state. A spur trail from the Taum Sauk trail near the Highway A trail head leads to the summit of Bell Mountain and the many glades and overlooks that face east toward the St. Francois Mountains. The area is heavily wooded and has some of the state's most rugged hiking as the trail descends toward Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. The rare Mead's milkweed can be found in the area, as well as many kinds of wildflowers in the glades overlooking the Ottery Creek Valley. The summit of Bell Mountain is one of my favorite places on the Ozark Trail to visit because it is so accessible. A couple-mile hike puts you on the summit to enjoy the solitude and scenery over a picnic lunch, or make camp and be prepared for an unforgettable sunrise.

📷 24-70mm f/2.8 lens • f/16 • 1/2 sec • ISO 400 • 7-frame digital panorama

Belted Kingfisher

Take a trip to a Missouri stream this summer to discover the sights and sounds of this blue gem.

IF YOU'VE SPENT much time along Missouri's streams, you've probably heard the chattering call of the belted kingfisher. One of our avian jewels, the kingfisher is often heard before it is seen as it sends out a relentless rattle as soon as it takes wing. Dressed in slate blue, with a white collar and chest, the kingfisher is a striking bird. The female has a rust-colored band across her chest and both sexes have a white spot in front of each eye. A bit larger than a blue jay, the kingfisher has a long bill, perfectly designed to snatch fish from the water, and a comical tuft of feathers on its head. Belted kingfishers are year-round residents of Missouri, and they nest in burrows along vertical stream banks so they can be close to their food source.

As its name implies, the belted kingfisher prefers fish, but it also feeds on crayfish and frogs as well as other small prey. Typically, the kingfisher lands on a branch about 15–20 feet over the water where it searches for potential prey. Once it detects movement it dives toward the water, stopping abruptly a few feet above the surface where it hovers as it zeros in on an individual fish. Finally, the kingfisher dives into the water and snatches up its meal. The catch is then carried to a perch and swallowed whole.

A wary bird, the belted kingfisher often lands high in the trees and does not tolerate humans in close proximity. As a bird photographer, I recently decided to pursue a quality image of a kingfisher, fully aware that I was in for a challenge. I chose St. Louis' Forest Park as the venue for my quest.

On a cold December morning I set up in some tall weeds along a small stream, about 30 feet from a snag on which I had observed kingfishers feeding in the past. Dressed in camouflage from head to toe, camera tripod splayed across my lap, I began my wait. About three hours later, I heard the familiar rattle of my quarry and the adrenaline started to flow. I watched a bird streak along the stream right in front of me and light on the very snag on which my lens was trained—a belted kingfisher!

The moment my finger moved toward the shutter release the nervous bird was back in the air. Ah—failure! After waiting another hour, I watched the noisy bird land on a branch high overhead and survey the landscape. Soon it dropped over the water, hovered, dived and brought up a squirming minnow which it proceeded to swallow right in front of me. As my shutter clicked away the ravenous kingfisher seemed oblivious to my presence. Proud of my achievement, I rushed home to review the image files.

Although I achieved my goal of acquiring vivid images of a gorgeous female belted kingfisher, I have continued to enjoy the antics of this species as I pursue other critters with my camera. I look forward to each spring when a new crop of kingfishers appear, rattling away as they claim their territory and learn how to be kings (and queens) of the fishing world.

—story and photo by Danny Brown





Hunting and Fishing Calendar

FISHING

OPEN CLOSE

Black Bass (certain Ozark streams, see the *Wildlife Code*)

5/22/10 2/28/11

impoundments and other streams year-round

Bullfrogs and Green Frogs

Sunset Midnight
6/30/10 10/31/10

Trout Parks

3/01/10 10/31/10

HUNTING

OPEN CLOSE

Deer

Firearms

Urban 10/08/10 10/11/10
Early Youth 10/30/10 10/31/10
November 11/13/10 11/23/10
Antlerless 11/24/10 12/05/10
Muzzleloader 12/18/10 12/28/10
Late Youth 1/01/11 1/02/11

Archery

9/15/10 11/12/10
11/24/10 1/15/11

Furbearers

11/15/10 1/31/11

Groundhog

5/10/10 12/15/10

Pheasant

Youth (North Zone only) 10/30/10 10/31/10
North Zone 11/01/10 1/15/11
Southern Zone 12/01/10 12/12/10

Quail

11/01/10 1/15/11

Youth 10/30/10 10/31/10

Rabbits

10/01/10 2/15/11

Squirrels

5/22/10 2/15/11

Turkey

Fall Firearms 10/01/10 10/31/10

Archery 9/15/10 11/12/10

11/24/10 1/15/11

Waterfowl

please see the *Waterfowl Hunting Digest* or
see www.MissouriConservation.org/7573

TRAPPING

OPEN CLOSE

Beavers and Nutria

11/15/10 3/31/11

Furbearers

11/15/10 1/31/11

Otters and Muskrats

11/15/10 2/20/11

For complete information about seasons, limits, methods and restrictions, consult the *Wildlife Code* and the current summaries of *Missouri Hunting and Trapping Regulations* and *Missouri Fishing Regulations*, the *Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information*, the *Waterfowl Hunting Digest* and the *Migratory Bird Hunting Digest*. For more information visit www.MissouriConservation.org/8707 or permit vendors.

The Department of Conservation's computerized point-of-sale system allows you to purchase or replace your permits through local vendors or by phone. The toll-free number is 800-392-4115. Allow 10 days for delivery of telephone purchases. To purchase permits online go to www.wildlifelicense.com/mo/.



"Once you try hand sanitizer,
you won't wash in water again."

Contributors



BRETT BOSCHERT is a 24-year-old accountant from Springfield, Mo. He started fishing from a kayak in early 2009 for largemouth bass and is a founding member of *MissouriKayakAnglers.com*. Having grown up in St. Charles, he has fished from Mark Twain Lake down to Table Rock Lake and many rivers in between.

CHRIS CANIPE is a freelance writer and information graphics designer. He grew up in Kansas City and now lives in Columbia with his girlfriend, Beth, and their black lab, Matilda. In his free time he enjoys reading, playing Scrabble and playing guitar and singing with his band, Malone.



CANDICE DAVIS is a media specialist for the Department. She lives in Jackson with her husband, Greg, and son, Liam. She spends her spare time cooking, writing, exploring the outdoors with her family and friends and attempting to create an enjoyable backyard landscape for both her family and local wildlife.

Nature photographer DAVID STONNER lives in Jefferson City with his wife, Angela, daughter, Maggie, and son, Sam. Since joining the Department of Conservation in 2007, he has made his favorite photographs while on the beautiful trails of southern Missouri, where he backpacks every chance he can get.



WHAT IS IT?

Luna moth

On the back cover and right is a luna moth by Noppadol Paothong. They are common throughout the state. Luna moths are usually found in and near deciduous woodlands, where their larval food plants occur: walnut, hickory, persimmon and sweet gum. Adults fly from early April through August. Around midnight, females “call” males by emitting pheromones, which the male’s highly sensitive, featherlike antennae can pick up. To discover more about luna moths, search www.MissouriConservation.org.



AGENT NOTES

Discover the joys of fishing in Missouri.

SOME OF THE most memorable moments I have growing up as a kid are of fishing with my family and friends in the rivers, creeks and farm ponds of Madison County. We fished in every way and everywhere we could. We would sometimes use a boat or canoe or we would just wade in the river. It didn’t matter to us how we fished, we just enjoyed having the opportunity to do so. I would like to encourage everyone to get their families and friends outside this summer and go fishing. The Missouri Department of Conservation has an abundance of lakes and ponds

open to public fishing on hundreds of conservation areas, along with numerous public fishing accesses along rivers in almost every county of Missouri. There are even free fishing days when everyone may fish without a permit. In 2010, free fishing days are June 12 and 13.



Other than free fishing weekend, you must have a fishing permit unless you are 15 years of age or younger or a Missouri resident 65 years of age or older. Be sure to review the rules and regulations of the area you are going to fish before going out. Many MDC lakes and ponds have different regulations depending on the management goals for that area. For more information on where to fish in Missouri and the rules and regulations, visit your local MDC office or go online at www.MissouriConservation.org/fish. Fishing is a fun, close to home, inexpensive outing for the whole family—just get out there and have a good time.



Alan Lamb is the conservation agent for Monroe County. If you would like to contact the agent for your county, phone your regional Conservation office listed on Page 3.

WHAT IS IT?

Our photographers have been busy exploring the intricacies of the Missouri outdoors. See if you can guess this month's natural wonder. The answer is revealed on the inside of this back cover.



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Free to Missouri households

